



# 25 Years of Strides Against AIDS

**Rhonda Zygocki, Executive Vice President, Policy and Planning, Chevron**

Thank you, Alan.

It's such an honor for me to represent the many Chevron families that have come out today to support their community in this fight against AIDS.

You may wonder why an energy company has joined this fight. Well, let me tell you, for us, this fight is business – and it's personal – and it started 25 years ago when 15 brave Chevron employees showed up for the first AIDS walk. They showed up and stood up despite the stigma, the fear and misinformation that were surrounding the disease. We walk today, our seventh year as sponsor, and our numbers now stand at 300. So, we're so thrilled to be here.

Why do we walk? We walk because we, too, have lost Chevron employees, good friends and colleagues – people whose names we've stitched into 10 AIDS quilts over the years, each one telling a story of precious lives stolen from us far too soon. But we also walk to celebrate our progress, like in Angola and Nigeria where, amongst thousands of our employees and their dependents, we have gone 7 years without one transmission of HIV between mothers and their babies. And we walk with you today to hope that we inspire others, as Alan has said, to help and give hope to millions more.

What started for us 25 years ago has gone from San Francisco to sub-Saharan Africa and from partnerships with local organizations here today to the United Nations and the Global Fund. Today, the fight against HIV/AIDS is Chevron's highest priority for community and employee health. We know we can defeat AIDS, we know we can ensure babies are born HIV-free, and we know that by working together, the healthy life that we all enjoy can be a dream fulfilled for millions of others. Chevron employees were here 25 years ago, we are here today, and Mayor Lee, we will be here tomorrow.

Have a safe and wonderful walk, and we'll see you out there. Thank you very much.